

## Decision Memo

### 2020 Boy Scouts of America Camp Makualla Improvement Projects

USDA Forest Service  
Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest  
Klamath County, Oregon

#### Background

Camp Makualla has been in operation on Crescent Lake since 1938 under Special Use Permit to the Boy Scouts of America- Crater Lake Council as authorized by the United States Forest Service. Over the years there have been many changes/improvements to the camp including: road access, additional buildings and camping sites, construction of rifle and shotgun ranges, and a shower facility. During World War II there was no boy scout camping, but the military utilized the camp. In the late 1940's the lake level was raised forcing the relocation of some facilities and campsites. In the 1980's the lodge burned down and a new one built. In 1993 the Modoc Area Council merged with the Crater Lake Council, which increased the number of youth who utilized the camp. Today the camp services approximately 1,250 youth in the summer and other organizations during the winter months.

Camp Makualla and Crescent Lake are found on the eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains, in the northwest corner of Klamath County, Oregon. It is located within the Crescent Ranger District, as well as the Deschutes National Forest.

#### Purpose and Need

*There is a need to upgrade facilities throughout the camp as much of the existing infrastructure is deteriorating and needs to be replaced with larger facilities and/or upgraded to bring them into compliance with applicable federal, state, and county codes.*

#### Proposed Action

I am approving the following actions, **less the boat house roof**, to meet this purpose and need:

1. **Roofing:** All of the structures in Camp Makualla have deteriorated roofs that would be replaced over time. Roofs currently are primarily wood shingles. This CE will analyze all the roofs but only the priority ones will be completed this year. *Priority roof replacement*<sup>1</sup>: Proposes to remove existing wood shingles on staff shower house/laundry faculty, five A-frame structures, health lodge, and the existing metal roofing off the dining hall/main lodge, and replace all with a dark green or dark brown standing seam, non-reflective metal roofing materials. From what can currently be seen, only the top layer of material will need to be removed in order to replace with the new material, but would also like to replace any subsurface material, if existing, with new material if needed. Will use standard construction tools, scaffolding or bucket lift for installation and dumpster for collecting and removing old shakes. Minimal ground disturbance, no proposed vegetation removal.
2. **Tent platform replacement:** Proposes to replace all old existing tent platforms with new ones that measure 7' x 9' sitting on existing prefabricated concrete blocks so platform is located off the ground for preservation. Don't anticipate moving blocks, but if required, would scrape surface to level

<sup>1</sup> . Priority roof placement are those structures listed. The remaining structures roofs will be replaced as funding allowed. This CE includes analysis for all roofs to be replaced, including but not limited to: Camp ranger cabin, craft room, trading post, quartermaster structure, pump house, well house, gas house, campers bath house, camper shower facility, archery structure, archery range facility, boat house, and information kiosks.

blocks. Decking of platform constructed out of plywood and painted dark brown with 2" x 6" treated lumber for the frame of each platform. In addition, they propose to attach a galvanized pipe tent frame onto each platform that remains in place after each use. Minimal ground disturbance.

3. ***Removal of Climbing Tower:*** Climbing tower is no longer used in its current condition. BSA would propose to use a boom lift, power saws, and standard carpentry tools to remove the wooden structure. It does have a concrete base pad that appears to be above surface. Will be ground disturbance for the removal of the concrete pad and/or any footings that are in the ground. No vegetation to be removed. Access is via established road and will use a mini excavator, or small backhoe to break up pad and load into trucks for disposal at local landfill.

The projects are located in Klamath County, Oregon, with a legal description is Township 24S, Range 6E, Sections 26, 27 Willamette Meridian (Figure 1).

### **Reason for Categorical Exclusion and Findings**

Decisions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment when they are within one of the categories listed in 36 CFR 220.6(e), and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment.

#### ***Category of Exclusion***

The appropriate category of exclusion is found in the Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3). This category is appropriate because the project involves "...approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land."

#### ***Relationship to Extraordinary Circumstances***

In determining the appropriateness of using the categorical exclusion, a determination of the potential impact to the resource conditions identified in FSH 1909.15 Section 30.3(2) must be made. The following is the list of the potential effects to the resource conditions from the project activities.

#### ***1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.***

- ***Wildlife:*** This project would have "**No Effect**" to the northern spotted owl and designated critical habitat and would not contribute to a negative trend in viability on the Deschutes National Forest. This project would have "**No Effect**" to the gray wolf, North American wolverine, pacific fisher, or the Oregon spotted frog or its Critical Habitat.
  - This project would have "**No Impact**" to the northern bald eagle.
  - Implementation of recreation residences improvement projects "**May impact individuals or habitat but will not likely contribute to a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species**" for the western bumble bee, Morrisoni bumble bee and Suckley cuckoo bumble bee.
- ***Plants:*** This project would have "**No Effect**" to any threatened, endangered, and "**No Impact**" to R6 Sensitive plant species.
- ***Fisheries:*** This project would have "**No Effect**" to any threatened, endangered and "**No Impact**" to R6 Sensitive fish species or habitat.

**2. *Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds***

Executive Order 11988 provides direction to avoid adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. Executive Order 11990 provides direction to avoid adverse impacts associated with destruction or modification of wetlands. The project is consistent with both executive orders.

- This project would have no effect to either floodplains or wetlands.
- There would be no adverse effects to a municipal watershed because the project is not located within or adjacent to a municipal watershed.

**3. *Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas***

The proposed project is not within a Wild and Scenic River corridor. The closest is the Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor, which is approximately two and a half miles to the north, across the Lake, and would not be impacted by the proposed actions. The project area is not located within any Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or National Recreation Areas. The closest Wilderness Area is the Diamond Peak Wilderness, which is approximately two and a half miles north and separated from the project area by the Lake.

The Camp Makualla is approximately one mile from the edge of the Oregon Cascades National Recreation Area (OCRA). There is no proposed activity in the OCRA.

**4. *Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas***

The project is not located within any Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) or potential wilderness areas. The nearest Inventoried Roadless Area is the Maiden Peak IRA, which lies approximately seven miles to the north. Due to the distance there would be no impacts to this IRA from these projects. The project is not within a potential wilderness area, nor will it affect any of the criteria for inventorying potential wilderness (ie. – no roads will be built and no timber will be cut).

**5. *Research Natural Areas***

There are no existing or proposed Research Natural Areas (RNA) in or adjacent to the project. The nearest Research Natural Area is the Gold Lake Bog RNA, which is approximately 12 miles to the northwest on the Willamette National Forest.

**6. *7. American Indian and Alaska Native religious or Cultural Sites, Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties of Areas***

These projects were reviewed under the stipulations of the 2004 Programmatic Agreement among the USDA-Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. These projects have been determined to be compliant with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the conclusions regarding the effects to the resources and conditions listed above, I have determined the project will have no extraordinary circumstances that may result in a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment.

**Public Involvement**

Public scoping and Tribal consultation were conducted in conjunction with the release of the preliminary Decision Memo. This project was also listed in the Deschutes National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions and on the Forest Service website. Comments were accepted from April 21, 2020 through May 26, 2020. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs responded with interest in the project.

## Consistency with Deschutes Land and Resource Management Plan

I have reviewed the *Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision 1990* (Forest Plan), as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan, 1994) and the *Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program 2005*, and have determined that the project is consistent with the amended Forest Plan goals, objectives, and standards and guidelines. Biological Evaluations were prepared for Sensitive, Threatened, and Endangered animal, plant and aquatic species and are located in the project file at the Crescent Ranger District. Also, the project meets all of the applicable Project Design Criteria from the 2014 Programmatic Biological Assessment for central Oregon.

### **Survey and Manage**

This project is consistent with the January 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* as altered by the 2011 Consent Decree and the May 13, 2014 Letter of Direction.

**Wildlife-** This project applies the Survey and Manage species list in the 2001 ROD.

- Great gray owl, (*Strix nebulosa*), Vertebrate, Category C. No potential habitat.
- Crater Lake tight coil (*Pristiloma artium crateris*), and evening fieldslug (*Deroceras hesperium*) Mollusk, Category B, included in analysis for sensitive species. Implementation of the proposed project will not alter wetland habitat therefore would not impact the evening field slug or the Crater Lake tightcoil.

**Plants-** Survey and Manage pre-disturbance surveys were not required for this project as the proposed project does not have significant habitat or ground-disturbing work within an old-growth forest stands.

### **Additional National, State, and Local Laws and Direction**

This project does not include any burning or actions that would cause more than incidental dust. The project will not compromise air quality and is therefore consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1963 as amended.

This project is consistent with the Clean Water Act of 1972. Within the project area, Kaboom Creek and Crescent Lake are not listed on the 303(d) list. Project Design Features are in place to reduce the potential for sedimentation and runoff to the lake.

This project will not disproportionately affect any social groups or civil rights. The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its employment practices based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. This project will not have any disparate effects on any consumers, minority groups, women, civil rights, or social/ethnic groups. This project will be compliance with Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice.

This project is consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This project will be compliant with Executive Order 13186, Conservation of Migratory Birds related to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended.

### **Implementation**

When the Decision Memo is signed, project implementation can begin once final approval is received from the Crescent District Special Uses Administrator. The following project design features will be included to meet project objectives and/or to reduce or minimize unwanted effects:

*Cultural*

- Roof replacements, with approved standing seam metal roofs are allowable for all structures **less the boathouse**. See District Archaeologist.
- For all other roof replacements, care should be taken to ensure no other elements of the roofline or structure are modified. If it is determined that the roof structure itself needs to be replaced, the replacements will be done in-kind by a certified contractor and the camp will contract the District prior to implementation.
- For any ground disturbance work- if imported fill is utilized it must be from a culturally sterile source (meaning there is no possible contamination from fill originating from another buried archaeological site).
- If, prior to, or during construction work, items of archeological or historical value are reported or discovered, or an unknown deposit of such items is disturbed, the permit holder/contractor would immediately cease activities in the area affected. The Forest Service would be notified and ground disturbing activity would not resume until written authorization is provided.
- Should human remains be encountered, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq. [Nov. 16, 1990] and its regulations (43 CFR §10) would apply.

*Botany*

- Equipment Cleaning - Actions conducted or authorized by written permit (contracts) require cleaning of all heavy equipment (i.e., bulldozers, skidders, and other construction equipment) prior to entering Forest Service lands. Equipment will be inspected on-site by the Forest Service project manager or the District botanist prior to start of work.
- All gravel, fill, sand stockpiles, quarry sites and borrow materials used for this project will be inspected for invasive plants before such material is transported and used within Forest Service lands. Any infested sources must be treated before use of pit material. Only gravel, fill, sand, and rock that are judged to be weed-free by District or Forest weed specialists will be used for this project (Requirement R6 Standard #7).

*Soils/Hydro*

- When rain is expected, all exposed soils should be secured (i.e. put soil back in ditch, take soil off steeper slopes, instill a sediment catch fence etc.). If a precipitation event is expected to produce overland flow, it is recommended that the project be discontinued until conditions dry out. At the completion of the project soils should be secured, and adequate vegetative cover and drainage structure provided (FAC-2).
- No used building material will be disposed along the shoreline.
- Properly dispose of all building material off-site.
- All refueling and storage of equipment will occur more than 25 feet from water.
- Equipment operators/operations will have a spill kit on site on site of sufficient size to clean up and prevent further contamination.
- Forest Service will be informed of any observed petroleum spills.

*Transportation*

- For any National Forest system road related activities please contact the Crescent Ranger District's Road Manager/Transportation Planner at (541) 433-3254 at least 10 working days prior to the proposed activities. Issuance of a road use permit may be required.
  - Road related activities may include but are not limited to; Commercial hauling (sale of a good or service regardless of profit on National Forest Service lands), road use outside of



authorized access or any road maintenance activities including snow removal.

### *Wildlife*

To mitigate disturbance to the northern bald eagle and northern spotted owl the following seasonal restrictions will apply: No project activities will be conducted during periods of seasonal restriction. A waiver may be obtained but is subject to nest activity and review of the District wildlife biologist.

- To mitigate disturbance to northern spotted owl disturbance causing activities will not be conducted during March 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> unless disturbance surveys are completed according to the 2012 Revised Protocol for Surveying Proposed Management Activities that may impact Northern Spotted Owl (USFWS rev. 2012). Disturbance causing activities includes use of large equipment, chainsaws, etc. (Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) M4, WL-1).
- To protect nesting bald eagles, restrict camp activities and maintenance with a quarter mile of a nest from January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. A nest site will be considered inactive if not occupied by May 15<sup>th</sup> (LRMP M3-15, M3-16, WL-1).
- To protect roosting bats or maternal sites, restrict roof removal activities from spring and summer (LRMP WL-64 and -66).
- To protect habitat for the bumble bees, butterflies, and mollusk, restrict project activities and maintenance within 15 ft. of perennial wet areas and Kaboom Creek (LRMP RP-3, WL-75).

### **Best Available Science and Conclusion**

My conclusion includes a review of the record of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

### **Administrative and Appeal Rights**

The final decision is not subject to appeal or objection. On January 17, 2014, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-76). Section 431 of that Act directs that the 1992 and 2012 legislation establishing the 36 CFR 215 (post-decisional appeals) and 36 CFR 218 (pre-decisional objections) processes "shall not apply to any project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan ... that is categorically excluded ... under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]." As a result, the Forest Service no longer offers notice, comment, and appeal opportunities pursuant to 36 CFR 215 for categorically excluded projects such as the one covered under this Decision Memo.

### **Contact Information**

For additional information concerning this project, contact Meria Page, Special Uses Administrator at Crescent Ranger District, 136471 Hwy 97 N/ P.O. Box 208, Crescent OR 97733, or by phone at (541) 433-3200.



**DANIEL RIFE**  
**District Ranger**  
**Crescent Ranger District**



**DATE**

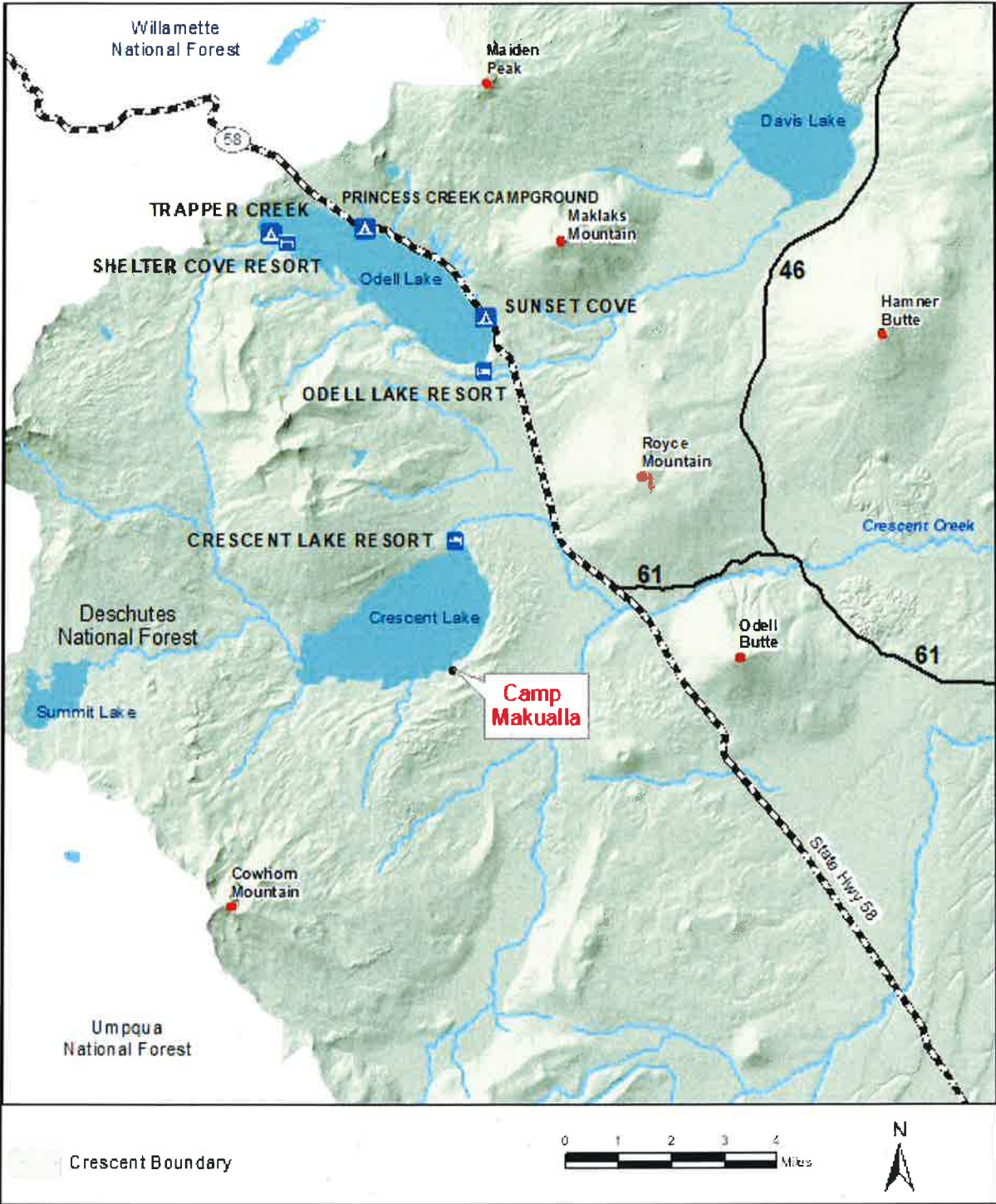


Figure 1 – Boy Scouts of America Camp Makualla Locator Map





### Figure 2. Boy Scouts Camp Makualla Detailed Areas of Use